THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) and (b) A new pilot scheme on Development of Waterlogged Areas into Aquaculture Estates has been started in 2001-2002 with 100% central assistance. An amount of Rs. 29.90 lakh has been released to Government of Bihar during this year under the scheme. No central or state sector scheme is implemented for pisciculture in the rivers in Bihar.

(c) Pisciculture in flowing waters of rivers in not an established practice.

Suicide by Farmers

†2063. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1390, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tendency of committing suicide by farmers is on the increase all over the country due to non-payment of loans as a result of crop losses due to damage of crops and not getting appropriate price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise number of farmers who committed suicide so far;

(d) the measures being taken by Government to check this trend in future; and

(e) whether Government would provide concession to farmers in the rate of interest on loans and special assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka informed, in November, 2001, 54 cases of suicide by farmers. For 2001-02, no other State has reported suicide by farmers.

(d) Necessary measures are required to be taken by the concerned State Governments in this regard.

(e) As credit is a crucial input for increasing agicultural production and productivity, a multi-agency network consisting of Commercial Banks,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Regional Rural Banks, etc. has been set up. There has been substantial improvement in the flow of Institutional credit. several reasons which include limited ability to mobilize resources, low levels of recovery of the loans advanced, high transaction costs and frequent suspensions of recovery have affected the Cooperative Credit Structure. A number of measures have been initiated, including Kisan Credit Cards, in the matter.

Repealing the milk and milk products order

2064. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to repeal the Milk and Milk Product Order which imposes restrictions on setting up units, with large capacity, by the private entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard; and

(c) what safeguards are being taken by Government so that it is not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Government to repeal the Milk and Milk Product Order (MMPO), 1992. However, Government of India has decided to do away with the concept of milk shed and the requirement of registration will be for enforcing the prescribed standards of quality and food safety and there will be no restrictions on setting up new capacity. The registration shall continue to have a check in maintaining the required sanitary and hygienic standards in the dairy establishments to ensure the food safety and quality of milk and milk products before it reaches the consumers.

ACPC workshop on MSP

2065. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices organised a workshop to determine the best way of arriving at the Minimum Support Price;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of the workshop;

(c) the details of factors considered for arriving at the Best Minimum Support Price;